

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-57 are presently pending in this application, Claims 25-57 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to for informalities; and Claims 25-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. However, Claims 25-57 were indicated as allowed.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 25-57 were allowed.

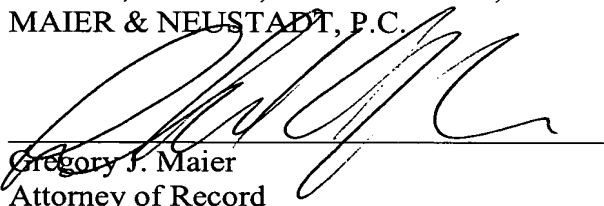
In response to the objection to the specification, the abstract of the disclosure has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 25-57 have been amended so as to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Therefore, Claims 25-57 are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the statute. Also, these claim amendments are made solely for clarification and thus are not believed to narrow the scopes of the claims. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language and expedite the prosecution of this application.

In light of the prior indication of allowed claims and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and thus the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Akihiro Yamazaki
Registration No. 46,155

GJM/AY/YO/mda
I:\ATTY\AKY\26s\260615\AME.DOC